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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES**

(covering its work during 1993)

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CHAPTER XI

NEW CALEDONIA

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

** This document contains chapter XI of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/48/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/48/23 (Parts II-VI and VIII). The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/48/23).

CHAPTER XI

NEW CALEDONIA

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1412th meeting, on 10 February 1993, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1794), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of New Caledonia as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1426th and 1428th meetings, between 20 July and 12 August 1993.

3. At its 1426th meeting, on 20 July, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Mr. Yuan Céléne Uregei of the Congrés populaire. At the same meeting, Mr. Uregei made a statement and replied to questions put to him by the representative of Mali and by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/PV.1426).

4. At the 1428th meeting, on 12 August, the Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/L.1809).

5. Also at the 1428th meeting, the representative of Fiji made a statement in the course of which he introduced, on behalf also of Papua New Guinea, draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1809 (see A/AC.109/PV.1428). The representative of Papua New Guinea also made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1428).

6. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1809 without a vote.

7. On 18 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1174) was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of France for the attention of his Government.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

8. The text of the resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1428th meeting (see para. 6) is reproduced in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

Draft resolution: Question of New Caledonia

9. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1412th and 1417th meetings, on 10 February and 12 July 1993, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia, 1/

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Welcoming the positive outcome of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords in February 1993 and the continuing support for the process by the new French Government,

Noting the holding of the Pacific Regional Seminar on decolonization at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 8 to 10 June 1993,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. Urges all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

2. Invites all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter and the spirit of the Matignon Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

3. Welcomes recent and foreshadowed measures to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields;

4. Also welcomes calls by the parties to the Matignon Accords for greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

5. Commends the decision to establish a Melanesian cultural centre as a contribution to preserving the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

6. Takes note of the recent positive initiatives aimed at protecting New Caledonia's natural environment, notably the "Zoneco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

7. Acknowledges the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

8. Welcomes in particular, in this regard, recent high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region;

9. Requests the Special Committee to continue the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

Notes

1/ The present chapter.